



Hello fellow Routt County Veterans,

JANUARY 2017 ISSUE

Happy New Year to all of you! I wish you all prosperity and good health in 2017! Now that the elections are over it is time to GET TO WORK! Thank you for those of you that continue to reach out to fellow Veteran's in Routt and for sending them my way; please keep it up. I am very excited to see what changes will be made to improve the VA System this coming year that are desperately needed, along with building our military back up to be the finest in the World. As we continue to enjoy our beautiful winter here in the Northern Rockies of Colorado, please be safe in your travels and all that you do.

Please call me 970-870-5469 or email me at nbreitung@co.routt.co.us to set up an appointment with me and please continue to help pass on my contact info to other fellow veterans young and old in Routt County. My hours are as follows: Mon: 8-4, Tues: 10-2, and Wed: 8-4

TOPICS THIS QUARTER:

EMPLOYMENT

Free Transition Checklist For Recently Separated Veterans

If you are a young veteran that served only one or two tours of duty or a veteran that has just retired from active duty, here is a very helpful transition checklist. It can be overwhelming when you separate and this list (which I have reviewed) has all bases covered. Sign up for FREE to receive access to this. <http://www.military.com/military-transition>

EDUCATION

Transfer Your GI Bill

If you are eligible for the GI Bill but are NOT going to utilize it for your own educational gain you can transfer this \$\$ to your spouse or dependent children. You have to use or [lose your GI Bill within 10 years](#) of separation from active duty. See more information below on qualifications for and how to transfer your GI Bill.

<http://www.military.com/education/gi-bill/post-911-gi-bill-transferability-fact-sheet.html>

Vietnam Vets May Be Eligible for VEAP

Assistance may be used for college degree and certificate programs, technical or vocational courses, flight training, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, high tech training, licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training, certain entrance examinations, and correspondence courses. In certain circumstances, remedial, deficiency, and refresher training may also be available.

See more at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/qbill/veap.asp>

HEALTHCARE

Various Registries That Veterans Should Sign Up With

I have been a busy working on disability claims, approximately 2 to 3 different veterans a day. The majority of them are Vietnam vets that have never filed before. I am also starting to see more young Vets come in to see me, they are out processed from active duty and sent on their way with no information about filing claims. This needs to CHANGE! If you are planning on filing a disability claim I recommend you sign up for the appropriate registries as part of the process.

VA's health registry evaluation is a free, voluntary medical assessment for Veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. The evaluations alert Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to exposure to specific environmental hazards during their military service.

You may be eligible to participate in one or more of these health registries:

- [Agent Orange Registry](#)
- [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#)
- [Gulf War Registry](#) (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn)
- [Ionizing Radiation Registry](#)
- [Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program](#)
- [Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center](#)

Use the chart below to help determine your eligibility.

Period of Military Service	Agent Orange	Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit	Depleted Uranium Follow-up	Gulf War	Ionizing Radiation	Toxic Embedded Fragments
1940s–1950s					●	
1960s	●				●	
1970s	●					
1990s		●	●	●		
2000s–Present		●	●	●		●

See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp>

HOUSING

Aid and Attendance for Elderly Veterans and Their Spouses

We have quite a large population of elderly Veterans in Routt County. In addition to filing a high number of disability claims I have been processing a large number of Aid & Attendance Pension claims. The list of documents and forms needed to complete this process is long. I can help simplify the process and help you along the way.

Pension is for Wartime Veterans with low income who are permanently and totally disabled. Widow's of Wartime Veterans need only be low income. Aid and Attendance is an additional benefit for Veterans and Widows who need the help of someone to do their Activities of Daily

Living such as bath-dress-manage medications or for psych conditions supervision if they can't be left alone.

There are two things to look at first of all for Pension claims:

1. Does the veteran have Wartime Service – See hand out- The veteran does not need to be in War only served during the time of war.
 - World War II: December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
 - Korean War: June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955
 - Vietnam War: August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975 Except for Veterans who were IN THE COUNTRY OF VIETNAM from February 28, 1961 through August 5, 1964.
 - Gulf War: August 2, 1990 still going on.
2. The other is Net Worth It must be under \$80,000.00. If they are living in their home it is not considered net worth, if they don't live in it but still own it then it is net worth.

Please call me and make an appointment to discuss this and work through all the needed paperwork.

TRANSPORTATION

I am thankful that we were awarded the VTF – Veterans Transportation Fund grant for this past fiscal year. Do to my expanding email communication with all of you we have had a dramatic increase in awareness of the funds available from this grant and have rapidly depleted about 2/3 of the total amount for the year to date. I will request an increased amount for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to come. The CHOICE program is still not working as smoothly as it should be to get Veterans seen by local providers, so as a result many of you still need to travel great distances to get to our nearest surrounding VA Hospitals. I do have a pool of great driver's ready to volunteer, thank you. ;)

If you are a Routt County veteran needing transportation to either Grand Junction or Denver VA hospital or clinic in Craig please complete the online request form. You may find information, the forms that need to be completed and the request form at: <http://co.routt.co.us/index.aspx?NID=507> and submit these forms to county VSO for reimbursement.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO YOU

American Legion Post 44 has set up a GOFUNDME account to take in donations that will be used to help Veterans in need for a variety of special situations. Please share this web link to all your friends and family and business associates through email and social media:

<https://www.gofundme.com/rocky-mountain-vets-emergency-fund> THANK YOU! ;)

Please email me any specific topics of interest to you and I will do my best to uncover the latest up to date information possible of your topic and include it in upcoming issues of my newsletter.